

**HENRY'S
DICTATION
LESSONS**

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Henry's Dictation Lessons by Joseph Fernandez

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JOSEPH FERNANDEZ

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BY

JOSEPH FERNANDEZ, B.A.,

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&c. &c.

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P R E F A C E.

THE importance of correct Spelling is equalled only by the difficulty which the majority of pupils experience in acquiring it.

The results of the Civil Service and other examinations afford evidence of the defective modes employed. In the Civil Service reports more than three-fourths—seventy-six per cent.—of the rejected candidates have Spelling given as one subject in which they were deficient. The plan of teaching by lists, or columns, of words is evidently insufficient. In the ordinary dictionary a large number of words are given, which are so seldom used as to be nearly obsolete, and mental powers are exercised in learning words which are never afterwards required. The more advanced educators of the present day have wisely determined to teach Spelling by Dictation.

In trying to do this, the author has been puzzled to find a collection of lessons which should contain *all the difficult words in common use, and those which universal experience shows to be most commonly misspelt.* He has endeavoured to remedy this want of such a book by the preparation of HENRY'S DICTATION LESSONS, which contain all such words, inclusive of those which, being *sounded alike and spelt differently*, are liable to be blundered.

These Lessons, on about five thousand words, are arranged in Three Parts:—

I. Consisting of Ninety Lessons on words alphabetically arranged.

II. Thirty-two Special Lessons on peculiar forms of Spelling.

III. A recapitulatory series, containing Thirty-two Lessons on all the most difficult words, arranged according to accent and vowel sounds. The sentences are framed so as to convey some fact worth knowing, or some moral truth.

METHOD OF USING HENRY'S DICTATION LESSONS TO MOST ADVANTAGE.

THE words to be specially noticed are printed in distinct type, so as to be easily distinguished, and may be used:—

I. As a Spelling Exercise, to be learned by heart.

II. Written out as an ordinary Writing Exercise.

III. And most important, after being carefully studied by the Pupil, the Lesson should be dictated by a Teacher, and, having been written with closed books, the slates or exercise books may be exchanged, and, with open books, each Exercise corrected. This plan removes the great obstacle to Dictation, viz. :—the large amount of time spent by the Teacher in the correction of exercises which have been dictated.

The Pupil, having the Exercise of his classmate and his dictation book in his hand, may be relied on generally, to discover and check whatever errors there are in the exercise under inspection, and thus has an additional means of correcting himself.

The Author has adopted this plan in his own school with marked success.

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HENRY'S DICTATION LESSONS.

PART I.

LESSON I.

The abbot and the abbess were obliged to leave the kingdom, when the abbey was abolished. Charles V., after his abdication, amused himself with watch-making.

The disciples of Mahomet hold pork in abhorrence; their only book is the Koran, without abridgment or abbreviation. They also affirm wine to be an abomination, and are very abstemious in drinking.

The aborigines of America are fast fading away; their decay is accelerated by indulgence in rum, whiskey, and other alcoholic drinks.

The French Academy is the great authority in matters of literature; accession to its membership is difficult of accomplishment.

Many hale persons injure themselves by accommodating ailing people. The king was seldom accessible, after his acceptance of the crown. By an accident, the whole edition of Latin accidence was burned.

The young musician accomplished the accompaniment, to the satisfaction of the singer, as well as of the assembled audience.

The soldiers were badly accoutred for a winter campaign, and for marching through accumulated snow, to which they were entirely unaccustomed.

After a short acquaintance, the admiral acquiesced in the proposal, and acknowledged the plan to be

good. The prisoner was acquitted for want of adequate testimony against him.

Adhesion of the lung to the cavity of the chest was the cause of death. The court adjudicated that the plea of ignorance was not admissible in law, as that would cause additional offences.

The aggression of the troops was aggravated by the haughty conduct and address of the ambassador, when affability would have afforded good reasons for its being passed over.

All shoemakers use an awl in their business, which is allowed to be useful. The altar-piece had been altered with great skill by an artist, whose heart was given to the art, to which he had vowed allegiance.

The allurements of pleasure are to young persons what the ignis fatuus, or will of the wisp, is to travellers.

On the marriage of the prince, he declared aloud that every amelioration should be allowed to the prisoners; and before his ascent to the altar, he assented to their petition.

LESSON II.

Ambition often leads men to ruin, and causes anarchy in governments. Amphibious animals, like the frog, live in water and on land.

Butler's analogy is one of the best arguments for a Christian faith. A chemist who analyses substances is called an analyst; but one who writes history is an annalist. The anniversary of American independence is held annually on the 4th of July.

While seeking an anchorage, the anchor drew up an anker of brandy, which some smugglers must have thrown, or lost, overboard. A letter without a name attached is an anonymous letter.

Annihilation, as we regard it, is only a change in the form of a substance. Some angles of the ancient